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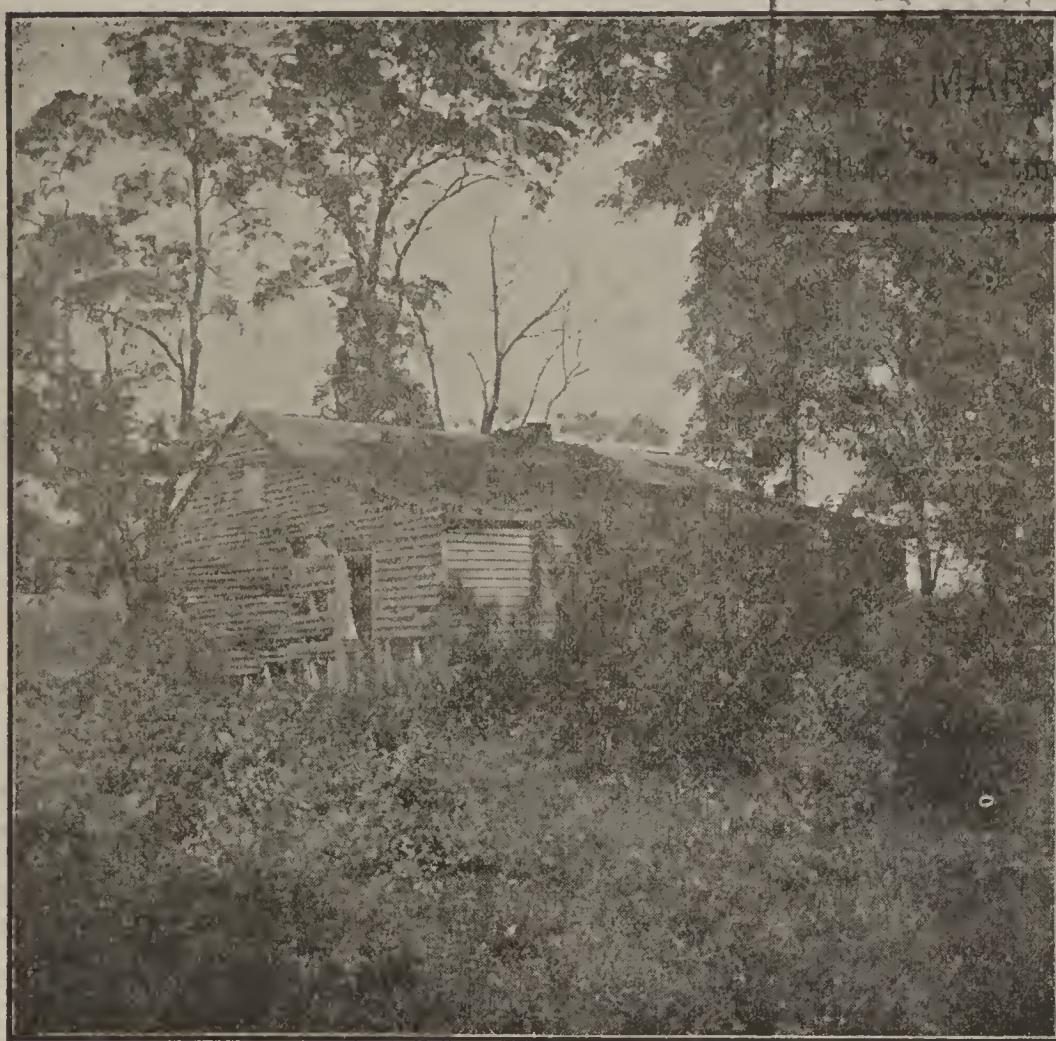
1938-THE OTWELL IRIS FIELDS-1938

CARLINVILLE, ILLINOIS

LIBRARY

1938

Department of Agriculture

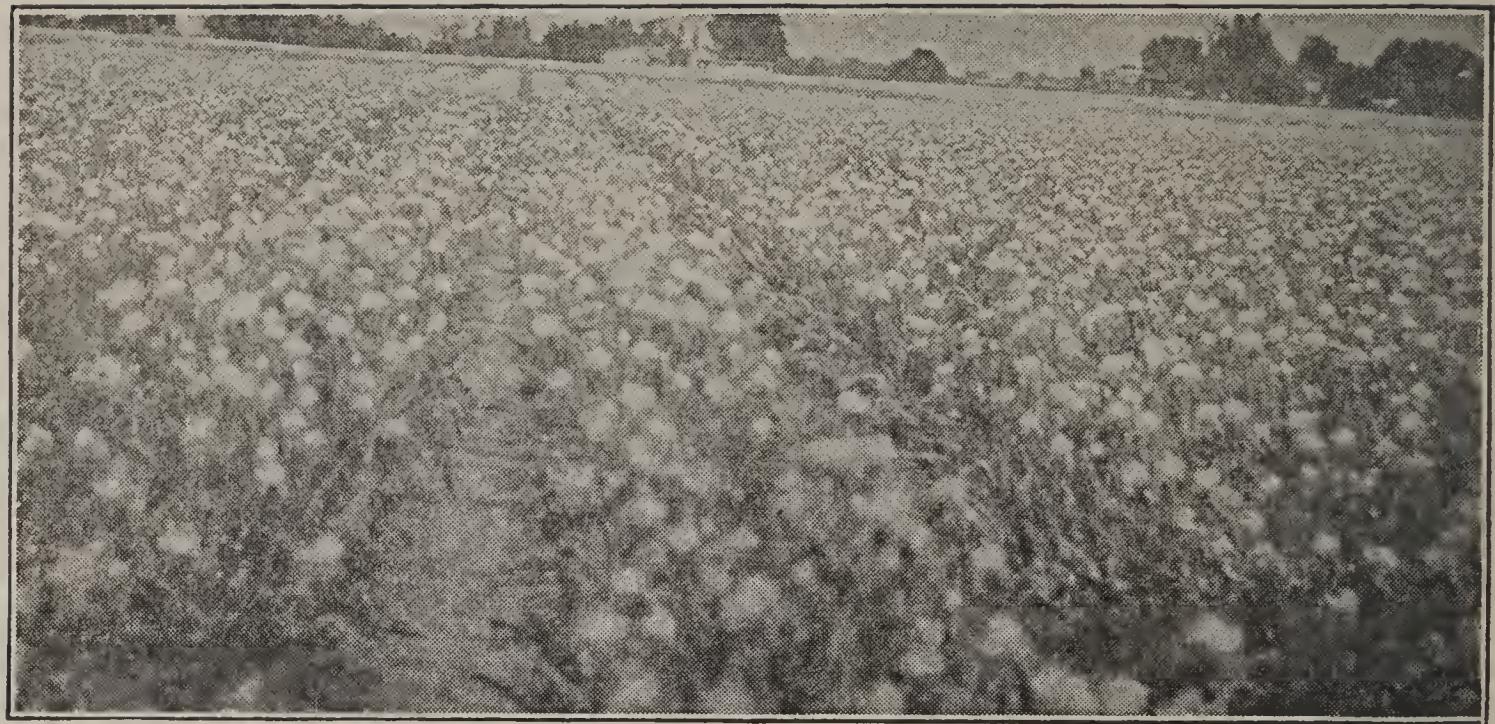


This is the home of my Grandmother—one hundred years ago. She and her four sons and five daughters, of which my father was the oldest, constituted the most religious family I have ever known. I have seen her go upon her knees and talk to the Lord in simple child-like faith, saying, "Now Lord, you gave me these nine children and you will have to help me take care of them. I can't do it without you." And not for a moment did she ever doubt. My father and mother built their home close by and raised eight children to maturity on 20 acres of stump land. I have seen my mother put the sugar bowl on the table for three months in succession without a grain of sugar in it. And we never knew we were poor. We learned to live on hard work and I love it yet. And only four minutes from this cabin I am sitting in my office out here on the farm—telling you about my Iris fields.

Fifty thousand people come each year to ponder upon these lovely acres. These fields of beauty are grown for you. They are kept and embellished for your happiness. They would not be half so beautiful, nor I half so happy, if you did not come to see us.

In this modest folder there is not one variety that I have not grown and tested for its health and beauty before offering it to you. And I do not see how I can spend the rest of my time to better advantage, than to send these lovely creations out all over the broad expanse of our land in the certainty that you too will catch the spirit I am trying to tell you about.

WILL B. OTWELL



Please look away off to the north—nearly a quarter of a mile—and contemplate the beauty of a **25-acre Iris Field** when in full bloom. Two hundred varieties of the loveliest things that I know how to grow. Quarter of a million lovely, lovely, lovely **Sky Blue** in one field. If that won't make you **drive slow**, you are hopeless. Looks like people come from everywhere. Last May on the **big day**, 5,000 automobiles came into our Iris Fields. No crowding, no congestion, no honking of horns by impatient drivers—nothing but good words for everybody and everything. The loveliest people in the world come to see us in May. They learned years ago how glad we are to have them. Please observe **one-way traffic**—entering at the north, and **for goodness sake—drive slow**.

WILL B. OTWELL

For Your Information

I grow no flowers but Irises but I grow **them** by the millions.

No shipments made until after blooming season.

The later you plant your Irises, the more they will bloom the following May.

Send me your orders soon as you make up your mind and I will ship at best time.

June, July, August and September are good planting months—the weather has lots to do with it.

In 1937 I dug orders until the middle of November.

If you live in far distant states, enclose 25 cents extra to help pay postage. And I will get even by adding some nice variety to your order—free.

At prices quoted in this folder, all shipments go to you by **Parcels Post, Prepaid**.

Don't scold. That's the cheapest thing in the world. Write a courteous letter about any mistakes and you will get the same in reply.

Our Mail—It was the Otwell postage stamps that gave Carlinville free mail delivery and every day during Iris time the post office sends to our warehouse for our packages. Great is the blessing of Uncle Sam's postal service.

Please look over the full page of Bargain Collections and see if some of them do not answer your requirements.

It is usually cheaper to buy that way, as we often take up hundreds of collections at one time. That lessens the expense of digging. I have used lots of study to make the collections so they will fit all conditions and all purses and give you the most color and harmony for your money.

This Iris Folder—It would be an easy matter to go to a print shop and get a big catalogue printed—with lots of fine, expensive pictures and in the end you would have it to pay for. But this little folder tells the story in simple language and allows me to sell the Irises much cheaper. I have hundreds of pretty, attractive snapshots—taken in my own fields and I wish I could bring them all to you, but the few little ones that I am able to squeeze in will give you some idea of our fields. Twenty-five solid acres.

Read about the **Red** Collection on page 7.

Our Prices—We don't let others undersell us and we do not know of any firm that grows better stock. Everything is guaranteed to please you or your money will be refunded.

Terms—All orders are cash. No shipments made C. O. D.

Turn to page 7 and read all about my reddest collection.

Other growers may have more **Reds** than I, but I do not know who they are.

12 of a Kind—Where the folder quotes Irises at one dollar per dozen, it means a dozen of one kind. Sometimes we must travel a mile or two taking up a rhizome here and one there to fill out a dozen and such cases the plants are charged at the single rate. To get the dozen rate it is necessary to order a dozen of one kind.

You can part with your money very fast by buying new and untried high priced sorts. Many new ones cost \$10 each. Some \$50.

But why throw your money away? Why pay ten dollars for a new pink Iris when twenty-five cents will buy as good or better in some tried and true older sort?

Iris Beauty—Plant fewer sorts and plant more of one sort if you wish to have real Iris Beauty. Plant at least three of a kind and better yet, a dozen of each kind.

REVISED LIST OF OLD AND NEW VARIETIES All Sent Parcel Post, Prepaid

Afterglow—Soft grayish lavender pink shading to buff. Free flowering and attractive. 25c.

Alcazar—Light bluish violet standards, deep brilliant purple falls. Tall. Many flowers. 25c.

Alpenglow—A very large purplish blue iris. Falls streaked with white. Tall. 25c.

Amanecer—A lovely blend of pastel shades. 25c.

Anosia—Unusual Iris. Short. 25c.

Apache—Large, rusty red flower. Very different and much admired. 25c.

Aphrodite—A tall, lovely pink. Rates high. 25c.

Argynnus—Yellow standards, velvety violet carmine falls. 25c.

Avatar—Heliotrope standards, violet falls. 25c.

Blue Jay—Rich blue. Tall, late, 25c.

Bridesmaid—Snow white, good height. 25c

Cadenza—Beautiful, tall, new. Desirable. 25c.

Caprice—Fine magenta red. Very fragrant. 25c.

Cardinal—Rich, red purple. 50c.

Cavalier—Fine, clear blue standards, deep velvety purplish-blue falls. One of the best. 25c.

Chaleedony—Beautiful lavender pink. 25c.

Cinnabar—Deep, reddish purple bicolor. Very velvety and strikingly beautiful. 25c.

Cluny—Pale lilac blue standards, falls drooping, deeper shade. 25c.

Colias—A light yellow self. 25c.

Crimson King (Improved)—Dark purplish red, almost black. 25c.

Dalila—Creamy white standards, rusty red falls. 25c.

Dejah—Dull silvery standards, bright mauve-blue falls. 25c.

Drake—A pale blue self of satiny texture. Very lovely. 25c.

Please drive a little slower. Last year there were 34,000 people killed by automobiles in the U. S. Won't you please be careful to drive a little slower when you enter the Iris Fields?

My fields comprise about two hundred different varieties. I do not try to keep up with the new and high priced novelties.

Some new ones are better than some of the old ones. Also many of the old standard varieties are far better and healthier than lots of the new ones.

More Than a Million—Our Iris fields contain more than a million plants and not many are priced over 25 cents. Most all of them can be bought as low as 25 cents each, or one dollar per dozen.

If you receive two or more circul-
lars just alike, please drop the extra
ones in your outgoing letters. Thank
you. W. B. O.

Dream—Extraordinarily beautiful clear pink. 25c.

Edward Michael—White standards, rosy violet falls. Very pretty. 25c.

Fairy—White, narrowly margined with pale blue. Sweet scented. 25c.

Feronia—Soft rosy bronze standards. Rose crimson falls. 25c.

Flamingo—Lovely rose red. Very unusual.

Flavescens—Tall soft yellow.

Folkwang—Lustrous pink. 25c.

Forsete—Spritely lavender-blue self. 25c.

Fra Angelica—A very fine apricot self overlaid with frosty texture. 25c.

Fro—Deep rich gold standards, velvety bronze crimson falls. Fragrant. 25c.

Gaviota—Lovely plicata. Cream edged with palest yellow. 25c.

Georgia—A beautiful orchid. 25c.

George J. Tribolet—Dark red purple, almost black. 25c.

Hermosa—Beautiful lavender pink. 25c.

Hesperis—Brownish red and fawn effect. 25c.

Hey Day—Short, pretty. 25c.

Imperator—Light wine red self. 25c.

Indian Chief—Brilliant red toned Iris. Very fine. 50c.

Iris King—Yellow with rich maroon falls. 25c.

Isolene—Silvery rose standards, flushed bronze, falls mauve-veined with gold. 25c.

Ivanhoe—Beautiful heavenly blue. 25c.

Kuynsna—Bronze, darker falls. 25c.

Labor—Reddish, much admired. 25c.

Lady Byng—Clear lavender self, of pink effect. 25c.

Lent A. Williamson—Violet standards blended with rich yellow. Falls large pansy violet. 25c.

Lerema—Brownish red type Iris. 25c.

Lohengrin—Light aniline blue standards and bright pale violet falls. 25c.

Lord of June—Very large lavender blue self, with yellow throat. 25c.

Lycaena—White standards, bright purplish blue falls. 25c.

Madame Chercau—White frilled with blue. 25c.

Madame Cheri—A violet pink of good form. 25c.

Madame Gaudicheau—Extraordinarily large purple blue self. Tall. 25c.

Ma Mie—Standards white, frilled, violet. Attractive. 25c.

Mary Gibson—A handsome soft rosy bronze blend with golden throat. 25c.

Medrano—Bronze red Iris. Unusual. 25c.

Mester—Violet blue standards and pansy violet falls. Very large, tall and fine. 25c.

Mildred Presby—Standards pale rose lavender, falls velvety pansy. 25c.

Miranda—A beautiful pansy blue self. 25c.

Morning Splendor—Rich raisin red. Tall, fragrant, fine. 25c.

Mrs. Charles Pierson—Pale blue with silvery sheen. 25c.

Mrs. Marian Cran—A very lovely pink. Tall. 25c.

Murillo—A rich raisin red Iris. 25c.

Muscatei—Light brownish red. 25c.

Muzeris—S. Apricot flushed with old rose, falls bright rosy crimson. 25c.

Nancy Orne—Outstanding pink type. 25c.

Neptune—Beautiful blue with lavender sheen, deeper lavender blue falls. 25c.

Nibilungen—Rich fawn changing to golden buff, falls red purple fawn. 25c.

Ocharacea—Deep bronze yellow, 25c.

Onyx—White standards, brilliant royal purple falls. 25c.

Opera—Rich wine red with velvety falls. 25c.

Oporto—Very attractive. Pansy blue. Free flowering. 25c.

Pallida Dalmatica—A lovely tall bluish lavender. 25c.

Parisianna—A beautiful white thickly dotted with purple. 25c.

Pyhllis Bliss—White with violet falls. 25c.

Pioneer—A very magnificent red purple. Good growing habits. 25c.

Princess Beatrice—Delicate silky lavender self, frilled. High rating. 25c.

Prosper Laugier—Bronze and ruby. Unusual. 25c.

Prospero—Lavender and purple. Very large and fine. 25c.

Quaker Lady—Smoky lavender. Very lovely. 25c.

Queen Caterina—Pale orchid blue. Scented like locust bloom. 25c.

Queen of May—Lilac pink, early. 25c.

Rajput—Bright violet self. 25c.

Rhea—Standards of lobelia violet and falls of pansy violet. 25c.

Rhein Nixe—White with purple blue falls. 25c.

Rose Madder—Bright rose madder. 25c.

Ruby Perry—A bluish pink self. Fine and tall. 25c.

Sans Souci—A gold iris, very common, prettiest en masse. 25c.

Seminole—Rich velvety crimson. none finer. 25c.

Shekinah—Light yellow. Tall, ruffled. 25c.

Shiwassee—Very large, tall, fine red. 50c each.

Silver Ribbon—A beautiful pink prize winner. 25c.

Simplicity—Lovely white iris, slightly marked with gray. 25c.

Sky Blue—Our outstanding iris, five acres of this very tall, very large, very fragrant pink lavender. 25c.

Sonata—A beautiful flower shading from buff to sulphine yellow. Falls are lilac, shading to yellow. 25c.

Steepway—Iridescent pink, mauve. Most unusual and orchid-like. 25c.

Susan Bliss—Rich rose pink self with a delicate purplish sheen. Orange beard. 25c.

Troost—Rose colored pink effect. 25c.

Tuscarora—A brilliant red toned flower that is highly attractive. 25c.

Virginia Moore—A rich yellow gold self. 25c.

White Knight—A beautiful white self without any marking. Fragrant. 25c.

White Queen—Pure white and fine. 25c.

Wyomissing—Creamy white suffused with rose, rose deeper at the base of the falls. 25c.

Yellow Moon—Soft uniform yellow. 25c.

Zada—A pure white of good height. 25c.

Zamora—Attractive purple blue. 25c.

Zilia—A fine tall pansy blue self. 25c.

All over the Otwell Iris Fields you will come upon beauty spots just like the following snapshots. Don't let the men folks drive through the fields like they were going for a doctor. Make them let you out so you can fill your soul with iridescent loveliness. If they won't, then leave them home next time. One of the sweetest visitors that has ever graced our flower fields came out from the Institution for the Blind at Jacksonville, Illinois. She smelled them, she caressed them, she called them pretty names and her exuberant happiness made us all ashamed of ourselves.

Will B. Otwell



At the gate, the autos turn left and the foot passengers turn right. They don't mix well. During May there is one unending stream of visitors. As the fields unfold, the crowds increase. A few days before and a few days after May 20, you may see 500 flower lovers at a time, strolling down the foot paths in search of their favorites. **The Otwell Iris Fields** are the meeting place for old friends and new. No swearing. No boisterous language. No crazy drivers, and no signs to keep off the grass. You are all welcome at Otwell's in May.

WILL B. OTWELL

OUTSTANDING COLLECTIONS

Please look these over and see if some of them meet your requirements. They are all filled with very best plants and choice varieties. In fact, I send out but **one grade—the very best.**

Address, **OTWELL IRIS FIELDS, CARLINVILLE, ILLINOIS.**

1. Red, White and Blue. Four Reds, four Whites, 4 Blues, among my prettiest varieties. Also as a good will stroke, I put you in one beautiful Pink free, all for **One Dollar, Postpaid.**

2. White, Pink and Yellow. Four Whites, 4 Pinks, 4 Yellows, also one fifty cent Shiwassee—free. **One Dollar, Postpaid.**

3. Nightingale Collection. Three Sky Blue, 3 Caprice and 2 Crimson King—8 in all—for **only 50c.** 3 collections for **One Dollar, Postpaid.**

4. Nine Sky Blue and Nine Caprice for only **One Dollar**, or 18 of either one, **Postage Paid.**

5. Memory Box. One each of 12 leading varieties, Red, White, Blue, Pink,

Lavender. Nothing nicer and you also get our 50c Shiwassee **free.** Parcels Post prepaid for only **One Dollar.**

No. 6. Two white, 2 Red, 2 Purple, 2 Blue, 2 Pink and Lavender, 2 Shiwassee. **One Dollar, Postpaid.**

No. 10 Collection. 100 Irises of ten different varieties. This collection will give you a fine start toward a commodious Iris garuen. Ten each of ten leading sorts and I give you the best things I grow. All for \$5.00, **Prepaid.**

I send out thousands of collections. Of course, I ship more **Red Collections** than any others. It's the cheapest way and you get the benefit of my judgment.

WILL B. OTWELL, Carlinville, Ill.

My Iris Fields This Year Contain More and
Finer Varieties Than Ever Before

The Otwell Farmer Boy Round-Up



Vice-President Stevenson of the United States said, "This is the most inspiring sight I have ever seen." Four miles—four abreast—from 8 States and 40 Counties in Illinois they came on horseback to **The Otwell Farmer Boy Round-up**. Governor Yates, on a black horse, led the parade and I reckon it was the largest crowd of people who ever came to our beautiful city in one day. I had 50,000 of these farmer boys in Illinois, growing fine corn for the World's Fair in St. Louis and while I have never said it, the United States Government, in a special bulletin, gives credit to this wonderful exhibition of brain and brawn and spirit for the starting of the **Four-H Clubs** and kindred clubs among the farm youth of this country.

Where is there an influence in all the world, so potent for good as the physical and spiritual uplift of the farm youth of our land?

WILL B. OTWELL

P. S. The Otwell Tree Planting Club of America planted a million trees last year.



AT OTWELL'S they bring their lunches and eat whenever and wherever they want to. An old rattle trap is as welcome as the latest model. There is only one grade of hospitality at Otwell's in May.

W. B. O.

HERE IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL RED IRIS COLLECTION I HAVE EVER OFFERED

For a number of years I have been offering my **Reddest Iris Collection**. Every year I try to outdo myself. My fields are conducted largely for the happiness of **fifty thousand** people who come to see them in May. I can sell Irises very cheap, for I raise millions of them. Here is the **newest** and **cheapest** and the **reddest** collection I have ever offered.

Four Seminole (Improved). Among the largest and brightest and reddest blossoms of any **Reds**.

Four Morning Splendor. Large and tall and brilliant. Stands up in rain and storm. A crowd of people continually surround these blocks. I know of no Reds more to be admired than **Morning Splendor**.

Four Imperator. Tall and fragrant and beautiful. (Should I run low on

Imperator, I will put in 4 plants of Medrano or Apache or Labor.)

Then, to cap the climax, I will put in four Shiwassee (Indian name), the largest, newest and reddest Iris in the entire field. Sells at 50 cents each. You are not apt to find it elsewhere as I bought the entire stock from Dr. Burchfield of Ann Arbor, Mich., except 4 plants and paid him five dollars per plant.

Then, to show my appreciation of your patronage, I will put in **two beautiful pinks** and also **two beautiful yellows**, making 20 plants in all, of the most beautiful things I grow and send them to you, Parcels Post Prepaid, for only **Two Dollars**.

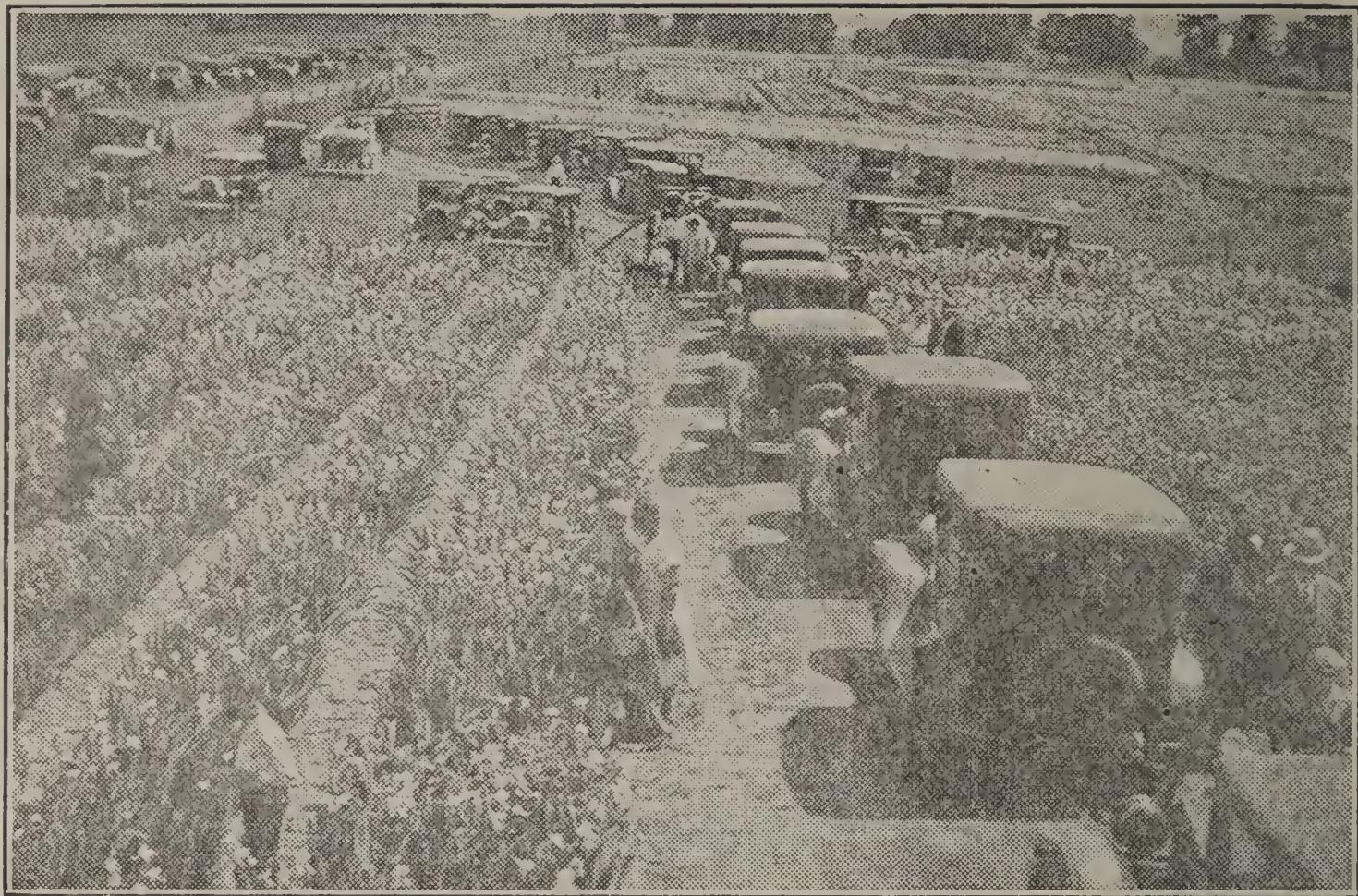
You will love these red beauties. Instructions in every box. Address: **WILL B. OTWELL**, Carlinville, Ill.



Pictures are lots better than nothing but when you come, be sure to see the **Red Blocks**. Ten thousand **Morning Splendors** and ten thousand **Shiwassee** will make any driver slow up. Look long and carefully at the pictures above and try to lose yourself in a Sea of Red—with oceans of perfume thrown in for good measure.

I have often said, that among my dearest friends are many, many hundreds I have never seen. With every order, I send my deepest solicitations for your success. All my activities are saturated with deepest wishes for your happiness and well being. I live in hopes that some time I may meet you all face to face.

Address: **WILL B. OTWELL, CARLINVILLE, ILLINOIS**



This is the way they come to the Otwell Iris Fields. Last year there were cars from 15 states in one day. Of course **one way traffic** must be observed. There is a perfectly good cinder road through the fields so that wet weather doesn't cut much figure. Every precaution is taken to safeguard the comfort and safety of our visitors. Reckless driving is out of place anywhere, but here in the Iris Fields there are people everywhere. No one with a grain of sense will drive fast in a crowd.

Fast driving is not a sign of **good driving**. It often happens that the fastest driver has the least to do when he gets there. Always, here and elsewhere, take thought for the safety and comfort of others. Flowers and happiness go hand in hand. Leave your gourches and scoldings outside the fields. Associate with sunshine and good wishes for everybody. First thing you know your life will undergo a great and beautiful change. **You will start to live.** You will attract good people to you. You will realize that to give of your talents to others is the greatest blessing that has ever come to anyone.

I never knew of so much happiness and good cheer and good wishes and joyous **life**—as attends the great crowds of lovely people, that come to the Otwell Iris Fields in May. You too are welcome—thrice welcome, without money or without price.

No admission fee. Nothing to pay—just thank the good Lord that you are alive and living in the garden spot of the world.

WILL B. OTWELL, CARLINVILLE, ILLINOIS



Shiwassee and Morning Splendor. Beautiful Beyond Words.